

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising ~~a step of~~:
eluting a HPLC column, which is packed with a superficially porous silica-based, reversed-phase support and loaded with a sample mixture comprising at least two components, with an aqueous mobile phase comprising less than 10% by volume of at least one ~~additive~~, neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound; wherein the presence of the ~~additive~~ neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound in the mobile phase leads to an increased column lifetime, as compared with the lifetime observed in the absence of the ~~additive~~ neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound, all conditions being equal.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence of the ~~additive~~ neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound in the mobile phase leads to a higher retention of at least one component of the mixture as compared with the retention observed for the same component of the mixture in the absence of the ~~additive~~ neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound, all other conditions being equal.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising detecting at least one of the components of the mixture as it elutes from the column as a solution in the mobile phase.
4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method is a method for analysis of at least one component of the mixture.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising collecting at least one component of the mixture in a distinct fraction as it emerges from the column as a solution in the mobile phase.

6. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method is a method for preparative isolation of at least one component of the mixture.

7. (canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~7~~1, wherein the fluorinated organic modifier is a polyfluorinated alcohol.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the polyfluorinated alcohol is selected from the group consisting of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol; 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropanol; and combinations thereof.

10. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the mobile phase has a pH between 2 and 11.

11. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the mobile phase has a pH between 6 and 8.

12. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the mobile phase further comprises a modifier selected from the group consisting of a buffering agent, an ion-pairing agent, a multivalent cation binding agent, a surfactant, a water-soluble organic solvent, and combinations thereof.

13. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the HPLC column is run using an isocratic elution.

14. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the HPLC column is run using a gradient elution.

15. (cancelled)

16. (original) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the components of the mixture are polynucleotides.

17-18. (cancelled)

19. (New) A method comprising:
eluting a HPLC column, which is packed with a superficially porous silica-based, reversed-phase support and loaded with a sample mixture comprising at least two components, with an aqueous mobile phase comprising:

an ion pairing agent; and

less than 10% by volume of an additive comprising at least one neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the presence of the neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound in the mobile phase leads to an increased column lifetime, as compared with the lifetime observed in the absence of the neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound, all conditions being equal.

21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the presence of the neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound in the mobile phase leads to a higher retention of at least one component of the mixture as compared with the retention observed for the same component of the mixture in the absence of the neutral, polar, fluorinated organic compound, all other conditions being equal.

22. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the fluorinated organic modifier is a polyfluorinated alcohol.

23. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein the polyfluorinated alcohol is selected from the group consisting of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol; 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropanol; and combinations thereof.

24. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the components of the mixture are polynucleotides.